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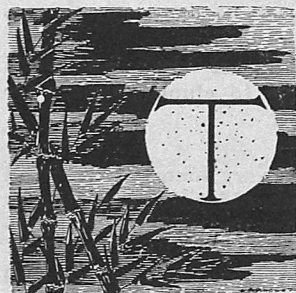
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# THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

## INTERIOR DECORATION.

BY CARRIE MAY ASHTON.



THE time of leaving the city and for seeking the freedom and quiet of country life is at hand and a few hints and suggestions in regard to furnishing the Summer home may prove helpful to many housekeepers who are already trying to solve that question. How to furnish a country home so that it shall be cool and airy as well as homelike and cosy is a troublesome problem to decide.

Many of the floors are hardwood with the oil finish, so that carpets are unnecessary. Large rugs are used here and there. Where it is found necessary to cover the

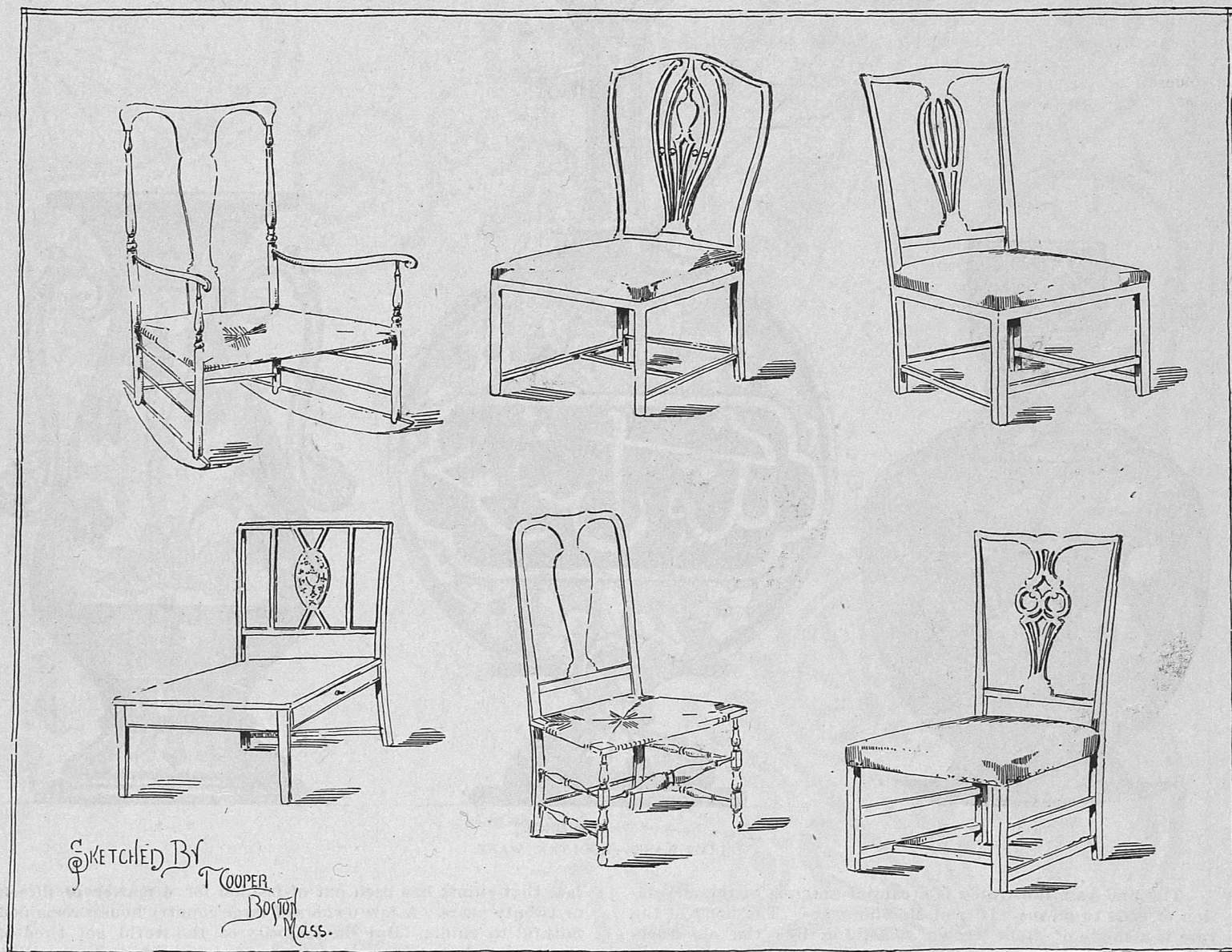
bedspreads, bureau scarfs, cushion covers and other fancy work. It is found in blue and white, and the patterns are both large and small.

One of the latest novelties is a network of gold thread of Japanese importation, which is much liked for sofa pillows and cushions, and is made over a plain color. A very unique cushion is of heavy surah satteen with the gold network fastened over one-half of it cornerwise. Below on it is embroidered a crab and fish in gold silk.

Nothing is more appropriate for a country home than Japanese portières, which can be purchased at any Chinese or Japanese store for a comparatively small sum.

Homemade portières are also seen which are made of heavy hempen rope which is fringed nearly to the top and then tied or knotted securely.

Denim is a favorite and durable material for hammock pillows. Many of them are outlined with some simple design. Portières and toilet sets are also made of this same material. A very dainty and serviceable toilet set, which includes scarfs for the dresser and washstand, cushion cover and mats, is made of



USEFUL CHAIRS, BY T. COOPER.

floors, simple inexpensive mattings are used, which are pretty and cool looking.

For hangings, pillows and covers, chintz will be used more than ever before. Many new patterns are seen which are very beautiful. The price ranges all the same from a small sum up to \$3.00 a yard.

Japanese cotton fabrics will also be much used.

Never before was there such a variety of inexpensive and beautiful materials to choose from. Shikii silk is among the novelties and is soft and clinging, hangs in perfect folds and is admirable for many decorative purposes. Cotton crepe, which bears laundering as well as linen, is a new fabric much liked for

linen, and is hemstitched all around with a pretty pattern of drawn work a few inches from the hem. Delicate pink wild flowers with their green leaves are scattered carelessly over the entire set. These are done in wash linens. Another set equally pretty has butter cups here and there, while on a third we find maiden's hair ferns. China and wash silks with polka dots, crescents and other conventional designs have lost none of their popularity in the way of hangings and household decorations.

The latest fashion notes tell us that "The boudoir or reception room of the fashionable woman would be incomplete without the presence of an incense-burning lamp.

"In some of these lamps cologne water may be burned, and



it gives a very delightful perfume, far preferable to that given by some of the potpourri jars, which are still fashionable."

In order to have a room cosy and homelike the corners should be utilized. A corner cabinet made of simple pine which can be stained and decorated by an amateur, adds much to the attractiveness of any room and the expense is but trifling. Art cupboards fitted to the corners half way up are very useful as well as ornamental in a dining-room. Glass doors can be used if one desires, thus showing the lovely china therein.

Window seats, when rightly made and daintily cushioned, are attractive and convenient. Another delightful cosy corner is made by fitting a piece of Japanese fretwork at equal distances from the corner. Below the fretwork fasten a pole, and from this is suspended a bamboo curtain.

A rug of soft oriental design is placed on the floor and back of it a wicker sofa. There should be an abundance of cool sofa pillows, of which there cannot be too many. A small bamboo or rattan stand holding one or two books and the latest periodicals will add much to the cosy and delightful nook.

A corner fire-place with high mantel is both useful and ornamental. Nothing can be more cheery on a cold or damp morning or evening than a bright grate fire.

Slumber pillows are among the latest fads and nothing can be more attractive. Many of them are made of white linen in order that they can be laundered easily. They are usually embroidered in wash linens or silks, and have on them some appropriate quotation and spray of flowers. A dainty one has maiden's hair ferns gracefully embroidered on it. On another is wild roses. This last named one is filled with rose leaves gathered during the rose season and is very fragrant. One is filled with sweet violets and has a bunch of them on the cover. Others are filled with dried hops, herbs, grasses or down. Some of them are round with a puff of the same all around and laced with a cord over the puff. Others are square with the corners coming together on one side with a puff underneath. All sorts of odd and quaint shapes and styles are seen. This is very pretty work for the industrious ones during the warm months, whether at home, in the country, or at the seashore.

Afghans or slumber robes are needed the year round to throw over one while taking a nap or reclining in the hammock. Very attractive ones can be knit of two contrasting colors in stripes and put together with a crocheted cord. They can be finished with a fancy edge or a tied fringe.

Others equally pretty are crocheted afghan stitch, and have alternate stripes of plain black and Roman ones. These are put together with a fancy cord showing the shades of red, green and black and finished with a heavy fringe, which is tied three times. Five or seven stripes are used. For a child's afghan five is sufficient. The black stripes can be embroidered if one so desires, but it is more work, and if for the carriage or hammock unnecessary.

Below is given the directions for a Roman stripe:

One row of canary color.	Two rows of olive green.
One row of medium blue.	One row of black.
One row of cardinal.	One row of white.
Two rows of olive green.	One row of black.
One row of black.	One row of canary.
One row of white.	Four rows of scarlet.
One row of black.	Three rows of darker scarlet.
One row of pink.	Two rows of still darker scarlet.
Two rows of grass green.	One row of wine.
One row of canary.	Two rows of still darker.
Four rows of dark cardinal.	Three rows of darker.
One row of canary.	Four rows of scarlet.
Two rows of pink.	Then Roman again.
One row of blue.	

For one stripe it requires five Roman spaces and four scarlet ones.

The width of a stripe varies from forty to fifty stitches, according to the number of stripes or the width of afghan.

Where one has a variety of worsteds on hand they can be utilized for a crazy afghan by crocheting them into little squares and putting them together with black. White is usually used for the center of each. These are either sewed together black wool or linen thread or crocheted on the wrong side.

This is both pleasant and profitable work, which adds much to interior decoration.

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER settles every vexed question on house decoration.

## DESIGN FOR AN OCTAGONAL RECESS.

MR. JAMES MCEWAN, decorator and upholsterer of Halifax, Nova Scotia, has recently decorated an addition to the residence of Mr. Justice Graham of that city, which consists of an octagonal recess that abuts on the grounds at the rear of the drawing-room, and has four windows, representing the four angles of the recess. The woodwork is in cherry, stained and finished to imitate old mahogany.

Fig. 1 is a representation of the doorway leading into the

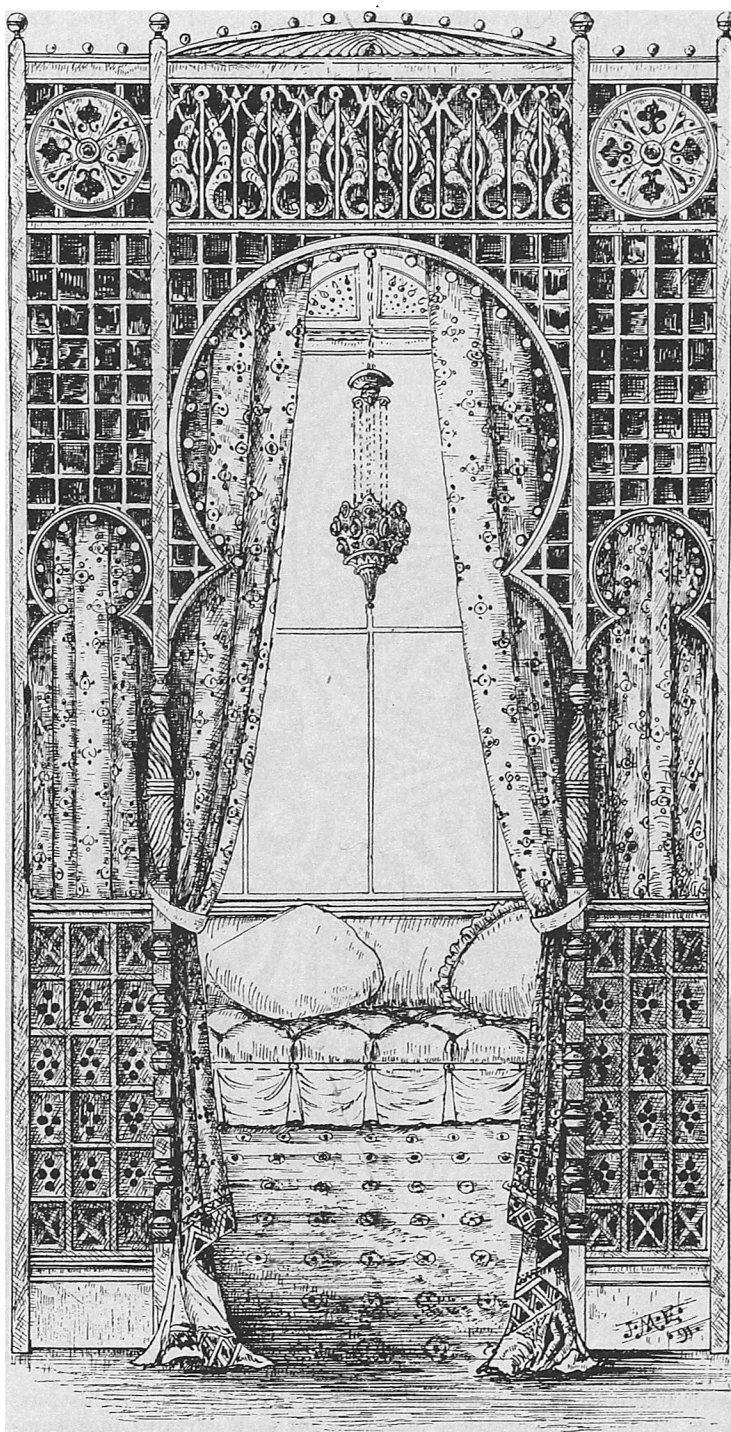


FIG. 1.—DOORWAY LEADING INTO RECESS.

recess, the grille work and archway being Arabian in character. The curtains are of silk brocatelle in two shades of gold, and the Wilton carpet has a dark blue ground relieved by saffron colored scrolls. The divans and pillows are covered with French cretonne in pale and bright blues, white, cream, and yellow orange.

The hanging-lamp is of brass, studded with jewels and amber.

Fig. 2 is a ceiling design in cherry. The perforations of the wood disclose a background of lemon-yellow. This design is easily and simply constructed, and may prove useful to our readers.